

NEWS RELEASE



STATE OF ALABAMA
Department of Industrial Relations
News For Immediate Release
Contact: Ron Macksoud, 334-242-8616

ALABAMA'S FINAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATE OF 2006 IS 3.6 PERCENT

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, January 19, 2007 Alabama concluded 2006 with a December unemployment rate of 3.6 percent after posting record low jobless rates of 3.2 percent the previous two months.

2006 ALABAMA UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

January	3.8%
February	3.6%
March	3.3%
April	3.6%
May	3.6%
June	3.6%
July	3.9%
August	3.5%
Sept	3.3%
October	3.2%
Nov	3.2%
Dec	3.6%

“The state unemployment rate matches the 3.6 percent posted a year ago in December 2006 and remains well below the latest comparable national unemployment rate of 4.5 percent,” says Phyllis Kennedy, Alabama Department of Industrial Relations director. “There were 79,949 unemployed Alabamians in December, compared to 72,025 the previous month.”

The lowest county rates for December are: Shelby (2.1 percent), Baldwin (2.3 percent), and Madison (2.4 percent). The highest county rates for December are: Bullock (8.4 percent), Wilcox (7.9 percent), and Perry (7.4 percent).

Over the year, there was a net gain of 16,600 jobs in wage and salary employment. The majority of the annual growth occurred in professional and business services (+5,800); followed by educational and health services (+5,200); leisure and hospitality (+3,500); and trade, transportation, and utilities (+2,800). The majority of losses were in manufacturing (-3,800).

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County unemployment rates, Metropolitan Area Unemployment Rates, and an Alabama map of county unemployment rates, are available at: <http://dir.alabama.gov>. Click on “Alabama Labor Market Information Division” under “Quick Links” and follow prompts.